

# SAY YES! TO COVER CROPS

## Recharge Your Soil – Protect the Bay

### MARYLAND'S 2019-2020 COVER CROP PROGRAM

Congratulations on your decision to plant cover crops this fall. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program welcomes you as one of nearly 2,000 cover crop farmers who are working to protect local waterways, reduce soil erosion and improve soil health.

It's time to begin planning your cover crop program. Please review the planting information and payment schedule so that you'll be ready to plant this fall.

Two-species cover crop mixes may be planted at a rate of 50 percent cereal grains (including oats) and 50 percent radish, legumes, or canola/rape. Three-species mixes (50/25/25) must contain a minimum of 50 percent eligible small grains. The species with the earliest planting date determines the planting deadline. Mixes containing rye do not qualify for the \$10/acre rye incentive.

#### COVER CROP PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate Per Acre*		Traditional Cover Crop Base Payment	Maryland Planting Period
	Bushels	Pounds		
Barley	2.50	120	\$45	8/15-10/15
Canola/Rape (Brassica)	0.16	8	\$30	8/15-10/01
Forage Radish		10	\$45	8/15-10/01
Rye	2.00	112	\$55	8/15-11/05
Ryegrass	0.83	20	\$45	8/15-10/15
Oats	3.00	96	\$45	8/15-10/01
Triticale	2.00	112	\$45	8/15-11/05
Wheat or Spelt	2.00	120	\$45	8/15-11/05
Must be Planted as Part of a Cereal Grain Mix				
Clover		20	\$45	8/15-10/01
Vetch		25	\$45	8/15-10/01
Winter peas		60	\$45	8/15-10/01

#### TRADITIONAL COVER CROP INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

Plant by October 1, 2019: Add a \$10-\$20/acre early planting bonus
Plant by October 15, 2019: Add a \$5-\$10/acre early planting bonus
Terminate cover crop after May 1: Add \$15/acre
Plant rye (no mixes): Add \$10/acre
Aerial seed cover crop into standing corn by airplane or helicopter between August 15 and September 1: Add \$10/acre
<b>MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$90/ACRE</b>

\*Aerial and aerial ground seeding rates must be increased by 25 percent.

#### CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

All cover crops must be planted by November 5, 2019 and certified with the soil conservation district by November 13, 2019 to qualify for payment.

#### FIND A CONTRACTOR TO PLANT YOUR COVER CROP

Visit [mda.maryland.gov](http://mda.maryland.gov) or contact your soil conservation district for a list of contractors who can plant cover crops in your fields this fall.

#### MARYLAND'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3	Harford	410-638-4828
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757	Howard	410-313-0680
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, ext. 3	Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3	Montgomery	301-590-2855
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3	Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3	Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3	St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3	Somerset	410-621-9310
Charles	301-638-3028	Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 5
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3	Washington County	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3	Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Garrett	301-501-5856, ext. 3	Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3

Maryland's 2019-2020 Cover Crop Program is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. Additional conditions and restrictions may apply.